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AYRES FAMILY
AIDS VENTURE

NEW YORK -- Venture in Mission, the Episcopal Church's renewal/fund raising effort, has received a \$500,000 gift to enhance ministry at the University of the South.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Ayres of Sewanee, Tenn., and Fred W. Shield -- father of Mrs. Ayres -- have made the gift through the Diocese of West Texas where the Ayres lived before he was named vice chancellor and president of the University of the South.

Income from the gift will be used "to strengthen and broaden the Christian ministry" among students and faculty at all three units of the University -- the academy, college and seminary. Similar gifts are being sought for the same ministry at other Episcopal Colleges: Bard, Hobart, Kenyon and Trinity College, Quezon City, The Philippines.

Mr. Ayres is an active lay leader of the Church. While still in San Antonio as an investment banker, he took a year's leave to coordinate disaster relief efforts in Central America. Later, he served as a key figure in the creation of the Venture in Mission campaign that was presented to -- and approved by -- the 1976 General Convention.

He serves on the board of the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief and on the Executive Council.

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